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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains resolutions and decisions adopted at the regular sessions of the regional commissions in the first half of 2007: the Economic Commission for Europe held its sixty-second session in Geneva from 25 to 27 April 2007; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its sixty-third session in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 23 May 2007; and the Economic Commission for Africa held the fortieth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Addis Ababa from 2 to 3 April 2007. The twenty-fourth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is to take place in New York on 5 June 2007, and any resolutions and decisions emanating from the meeting that require action by the Council or to be brought to its attention will be included in addendum 2 (E/2007/15/Add.2).

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Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Council	1	3
	A. Economic Commission for Africa	1	3
II.	Matters brought to the attention of the Council	2–53	4
	A. Economic Commission for Europe	2–5	4
	B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	6–27	5
	C. Economic Commission for Africa	28–53	12

I. Matters calling for action by the Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

1. At the fortieth session of the Commission/Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 3 April 2007, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) approved the following draft resolution, without a vote, for adoption by the Council. Following ECA's approval, the delegation of Morocco rejected the draft resolution based on reservations on subparagraph (a).

Review of the intergovernmental machinery of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic Commission for Africa resolution 844 (XXXIX) of 16 May 2006 on repositioning the Economic Commission for Africa to better respond to Africa's priorities, in which it endorsed the strategic direction, the guiding principles and proposals for repositioning the Economic Commission for Africa and requested the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to implement these proposals and reflect them in the Commission biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, and realign the intergovernmental, programme and organizational structures of the Economic Commission for Africa in order to enhance the secretariat's management and business processes for greater results,

Taking into account decision AU/Dec.14 (VII) adopted by the seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union on 2 July 2006, on strengthening the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank partnership, in which it welcomed the commitment of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to strengthening and repositioning the Economic Commission for Africa to address Africa's development challenges, and reaffirmed the role of the Economic Commission for Africa as a key and necessary United Nations institution in Africa to assist and facilitate the work of the African Union and the regional economic communities in defining, articulating, advocating common positions on development policies and issues and goals, and promoting and supporting economic and social development in Africa,

Recalling decision AU/Dec.140 (VIII) adopted by the eighth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union on 30 January 2007, on enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation by which the African Union Heads of State and Government endorsed the signing by the United Nations and the African Union of the Declaration entitled "Enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation: framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union",

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 61/234 of 22 December 2006, on enhancing the role of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa, in which the General Assembly welcomed the efforts being made by the Economic Commission for Africa to reposition itself to better respond to the challenges facing Africa,

Noting with appreciation the extensive consultations and continuing dialogue that the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa has been

engaged in with the Group of African Ambassadors in Addis Ababa and New York, respectively, with a view to keeping them informed on the reforms he has taken to reposition the Economic Commission for Africa, including the adoption of the new programme and organizational structures of the Economic Commission for Africa secretariat,

Mindful that, in compliance with the request of the General Assembly and the provisions of the programme planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation rules, the intergovernmental structure of the Commission should mirror the newly adopted programme structure resulting from the repositioning of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Emphasizing the need to further define the composition and objectives of the proposed structures comprising the intergovernmental machinery as well as the rules governing their operations with due account taken of the conditions and regulatory context of each of the subregional economic communities,

Having examined the proposed intergovernmental machinery contained in document E/ECA/COE/26/10,

Endorses the proposed intergovernmental machinery of the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into account the discussion and related recommendations made at the fortieth session of the Commission/Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, namely to:

(a) Organize a joint annual African Union/Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

(b) Replace the current Intergovernmental Committee of Experts with subregional ministerial conferences, whose meetings would be organized according to intergovernmental arrangements existing in each subregion;

(c) Organize the subsidiary organs of the Economic Commission for Africa into seven sectoral committees, as follows:

(i) Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development;

(ii) Committee on Governance and Popular Participation;

(iii) Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology;

(iv) Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration;

(v) Committee on Women and Development;

(vi) Committee on Statistics;

(vii) Committee on Human and Social Development.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

A. Economic Commission for Europe

2. At its sixty-second session, held in Geneva from 25 to 27 April 2007, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) adopted a Declaration for its sixtieth anniversary, which is hereunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Declaration for the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

3. The Declaration acknowledged achievements by the Economic Commission for Europe over the past 60 years in fostering cooperation and integration, and reaffirmed the commitment of ECE member States to support and strengthen the effective implementation of the mandate of the organization and to ensure its continued substantive relevance, greater visibility and improved transparency.

4. The Declaration affirmed that ECE can, through the further exercise of its role as a multilateral platform, substantially contribute to addressing the challenges of the ECE region by, as an integral part of the United Nations, continuing to bring the development and environmental goals agreed by the international community down to the regional level, and supporting their implementation with the involvement of relevant actors; contributing to increasing coherence of the development work of the United Nations at the regional level, in close cooperation with other entities of the United Nations family; ensuring that the work of ECE is rooted in its sectoral committees; continuing to provide a forum for open dialogue among member States and other stakeholders within the areas of its competence; assisting countries to implement its intergovernmental outcomes through sectoral activities and technical cooperation; supporting regional and subregional integration processes in their endeavours; and further implementing the United Nations global mandate on gender equality by promoting the economics of gender as a factor of sustained growth.

5. In conclusion, the Declaration underlined that ECE is well placed within pan-European and transatlantic architecture to continue to address transboundary issues, promote prosperity and contribute to building a common regional economic space, and committed the renewed support of ECE member States to a reinvigorated organization as a major forum to meet effectively the changing needs of its member States.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

6. At its sixty-third session, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 17 to 23 May 2007, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopted a declaration for its sixtieth anniversary, as well as several other resolutions and decisions, which are hereunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Almaty Declaration: Commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

7. The Commission recognized the historic significance of the session, held for the first time in Central Asia in the year that marks the sixtieth anniversary of its founding, and celebrated a period spanning six decades in which membership has grown from 10 in 1947 to 62 today, encompassing a region that is home to two thirds of humankind and is characterized by a rich diversity of cultures and economic and social systems. The Commission expressed its deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the session and commended Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, for his leadership in revitalizing the Commission.

8. The Commission also recalled Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, which recognizes the regional commissions as regional outposts of the United Nations, fulfilling norm-setting, dissemination and analytical functions, as well as providing an important forum for articulating regional perspectives on global issues and for building consensus within their respective regions. In recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] the Commission reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing the authority and efficiency of the United Nations, as well as its capacity to address effectively the full range of challenges faced in the present era of rapid socio-economic development. The Commission also recalled the Shanghai Declaration,[3] a landmark resolution adopted at the birthplace of the Commission in Shanghai, China, which outlines the overall vision for the Commission in reducing poverty, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues.

9. In reaffirming the vital role of the Commission in fostering regional and subregional cooperation and in assisting members and associate members in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the Commission committed itself to supporting its mandated functions as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the region, and was convinced that it was well placed to expand the scope of regional cooperation through the strengthening of linkages with subregional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Pacific Islands Forum, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In a region that hosts the world's most dynamic economies, the Commission noted with concern the widening disparities between and within countries, and therefore resolved to strengthen South-South cooperation and to accelerate the integration of Central Asia into the regional economies of Asia and the Pacific through, among other things, the strengthening of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

10. The Commission expressed its determination to build an Asia-Pacific century as an epoch during which poverty is eliminated and equal opportunities become available for every woman and man to live healthy, peaceful and productive lives, and it resolved to support the efforts of ESCAP in renewing itself towards fulfilling the vision of an Asia-Pacific century. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to reinvigorate the role of the Commission as a regional development centre, in close collaboration with United Nations country teams, and to strengthen the leadership of the Commission in promoting South-South cooperation. The Commission further requested the Executive Secretary to enhance the visibility of the Commission and increase understanding of its role in policy advocacy and consensus-building, as the body uniquely representative of the Asia and Pacific region, and pledged strong and continuing support to the leadership role of ESCAP in catalysing regional cooperation, in fostering an Asia-Pacific century and in creating a shared future based upon our common humanity.

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[1] General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[2] General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 18 September 2005.

[3] Commission resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004.

Review of the conference structure of the Commission

11. The Commission decided to defer the review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, to its sixty-fourth session, and requested the Executive Secretary, as a matter of priority, to facilitate an effective process of consultation among members and associate members on a comprehensive and thorough review of the conference structure of the Commission.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

12. The Commission took note with appreciation of the regional road map for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,[1] and invited all members and, as appropriate, associate members in the region to take this into account in developing and/or implementing their own national development strategies towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission also took note with appreciation of the existing regional tripartite partnership[4] on the Millennium Development Goals, which provides a consolidated regional platform to support the achievement of the Goals, as well as various activities undertaken under the tripartite initiative, such as the holding of subregional forums on the Millennium Development Goals and a series of reports published by these bodies, which assess progress towards achieving the Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

13. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to continue developing recommendations for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the form of a regional road map, by developing and refining existing elements and building also on related efforts or processes, including the outcomes of subregional forums on the Millennium Development Goals, in close coordination with other United Nations entities, regional development banks and financial institutions.

Midterm review of the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

14. The Commission encouraged landlocked and transit developing countries to undertake substantive preparation towards the midterm review. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with regional and global partners, as appropriate, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action[5] in the programme of work of the secretariat in order to further strengthen the support that the secretariat provides to landlocked and transit developing countries in their efforts to develop bilateral, subregional and regional cooperative arrangements for establishing efficient transit transport systems, as called for in the Almaty Programme of Action; assist countries in their efforts to develop transit transport cooperation; and connect with existing and future transport networks in the region under the framework, especially, of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian

[4] ESCAP, UNDP and the Asian Development Bank.

[5] See A/CONF.202/3, annex I.

Highway Network[6] and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network.[7]

15. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to assist countries in their process of acceding to the World Trade Organization and in negotiating and implementing trade agreements for enhancing market access that are consistent with those of the World Trade Organization; strengthen capacity-building activities for government agencies in the field of trade facilitation, in order to establish a transparent, consistent and predictable environment for conducting international trade; assist countries in their efforts to streamline, simplify and standardize documents and procedures; continue the work of developing effective indicators for measuring progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the region, in close coordination with relevant organizations, in particular, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; implement pilot projects, subject to available resources, in order to apply the methodology in selected landlocked subregions of Asia and the Pacific in view of the midterm review; and provide, within his mandate, necessary support in the preparatory process for the midterm review.

Implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

16. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[8] noted the outcomes of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries at its eighth session[9] and endorsed its conclusions and recommendations regarding intercountry energy cooperation; committed itself to considering the formation of a special task force on least developed countries/landlocked developing countries/small island developing States to develop strategies and measures to address energy security and access issues collectively; and invited Governments, donor countries, relevant United Nations organizations and bodies, international and subregional organizations and international and regional financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, to consider actively contributing towards the implementation of the present resolution through financial contributions and technical cooperation.

17. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations in Asia and the Pacific to facilitate the establishment of a cooperation framework on energy security and widening access to energy services by exploring the possibility of raising extrabudgetary resources; holding policy dialogues; undertaking policy studies on energy security, as well as on widening access to energy services and the role of renewable energy; and synergizing or linking, wherever possible, with other

[6] See Commission resolution 60/4 of 28 April 2004.
[7] Commission resolution 62/4 of 12 April 2006, annex.
[8] See A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.
[9] See E/ESCAP/63/18.

broader energy cooperation frameworks, such as the proposed trans-Asian energy system.

18. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to explore the establishment of a special programme on energy-related infrastructure and to identify the best usage of energy available in support of the above-mentioned cooperation framework that would aim at strengthening national capacity for energy planning and management to enhance sustainability; promoting intercountry cooperation to exchange information, experiences and models, and good practices on renewable energy technology; exploring the prospects for renewable solar and wind energy; and mainstreaming the concerns of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States into subregional and regional initiatives on energy trade and cooperation for the benefit of rural populations.

International migration and development for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

19. The Commission urged members and associate members, as appropriate, to identify ways and means to maximize the developmental benefits of international migration and to reduce its negative effects; incorporate international migration issues into national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies; and strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty.

20. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations in Asia and the Pacific, to ensure that the activities of the secretariat take into account the special needs related to migration issues as contained in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[8] the Almaty Programme of Action[5] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[10] to analyse and compile relevant information on international migration, with a view to identifying key trends, emerging issues and opportunities and challenges in both sending and receiving countries; to continue to provide a forum for dialogue among members and associate members of the Commission, and to facilitate discussion on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and its linkages with socio-economic development and the best practices for the provision of social protection and basic health services to all international migrant workers; and to convene a high-level meeting on international migration and development in close coordination with related international organizations on migration, preferably in 2008.

[10] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

Sustainable financing towards achieving universal health-care coverage in Asia and the Pacific

21. The Commission urged members and associate members, as appropriate, to implement fully the commitments relating to health as reaffirmed in the World Summit Outcome 2005,[2] while acknowledging increases in financial assistance being made by some developed countries, and to consider further mobilization of additional financial resources; to develop sustainable health-financing systems for their citizens to move towards universal health-care coverage as a means of attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1] to work to strengthen infrastructure and human resources for health and to share best experiences on methods of health financing within the particular context of each country; to share experiences of financing of health-care delivery systems, and to consider inviting national stakeholders and development partners to cooperate on the development of national strategies to move towards the achievement of universal coverage; to ensure that health-financing systems include a method for prepayment of financial contributions for health care, with a view to sharing risk among the population, and to ensure that external funds for specific health programmes or activities are managed and organized in a way that contributes to the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for the health system as a whole; and to build up and strengthen capacity in the design of benefit packages, in the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage.

22. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with relevant organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to assist members and associate members in their capacity-building on the provision of health financing, with a view to achieving the goal of universal coverage and providing a platform for regional cooperation and exchange of experiences; to continue to analyse the situation of health financing, within the overall development policies and planning of members and associate members, and to provide technical support, upon request, in the monitoring of progress towards the goal of universal coverage; and to organize and invite interested members to consultations at a senior level to discuss sustainable health-care financing in the region towards achieving universal coverage of health services.

Implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011)

23. The Commission resolved that, in order to meet the growing challenges of globalization effectively, respective government authorities will develop and implement transport policies at the national, subregional and regional levels in line with the following principles: formulating integrated policies and decision-making frameworks based on strategic assessments of economic, environmental, social and poverty-related aspects; developing an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system that contributes to the long-term objective of regional cooperation in support of production and distribution networks and international trade; giving priority to investment in the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks, including intermodal interfaces to link them with water and air transport networks; and mobilizing financial resources for the development of the transport

system, and its maintenance and operation, from all possible sources, including private-sector partnerships and other financial arrangements.

24. The Commission endorsed the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), and reiterated its support for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action[5] for the benefit of landlocked and transit developing countries; encouraged members participating in the development of the Asian Highway Network that have not already done so to accede to, ratify, accept or approve the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network;[6] encouraged members and associate members to continue to act upon the recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration on improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific;[11] encouraged members participating in the development of the Trans-Asian Railway Network that have not already done so to sign, accede to, ratify, accept or approve the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network;[7] also encouraged members and associate members to place increasing attention on the operationalization of priority transport corridors and routes; and invited international and regional financing institutions and multilateral and bilateral donors to consider providing further financial and technical support for the development and operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the Asian Highway Network.

25. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to assist regional members and associate members in realizing the long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system, which is needed in order to meet the growing challenges of globalization; to accord priority to the implementation of phase I (2007-2011) of the Regional Action Programme, including the mobilization and deployment of resources; to undertake a detailed study on the establishment of a forum of Asian ministers of transport, and to undertake a study that, based upon the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks, as well as major Euro-Asian and other interregional transport links, defines priority transport corridors, and good practices and proposes specific measures, for example, memorandums of understanding that lead to the effective development of those corridors; and to ensure effective coordination with other United Nations and multilateral agencies and subregional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Review of modalities for regional cooperation in natural disaster management, in particular the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management

26. The Commission decided to further study the modalities for strengthening regionally coordinated disaster information management and early warning, including the viability of establishing a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to commission an independent feasibility study on the modalities for strengthening regional coordination and cooperation in natural disaster information management and early warning and in that regard, to assess the viability of establishing a regional centre for information,

[11] E/ESCAP/63/13, chap. IV.

communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance regional support for members and associate members in natural disaster prevention and mitigation; this study should be conducted in consultation with regional and international entities involved in disaster information management and early warning; and to facilitate the organization of a workshop on disaster information management and early warning.

Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management until the sixty-fourth session of the Commission

27. At its fifth plenary meeting, on 23 May 2007, the Commission decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran entitled "Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for ICST-enabled Disaster Management (APIDM)" until the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.

C. Economic Commission for Africa

28. At the fortieth session of the Commission/Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Commission approved six resolutions and a ministerial statement, which are hereunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Summary of the ministerial statement, 3 April 2007, Addis Ababa

29. The African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development reaffirmed commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, and also reaffirmed the importance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)[12] as the framework for Africa's development; supported the decision made by the summit of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in Algiers, in March 2007, to establish a NEPAD planning and coordinating authority; and further supported its subsequent integration into the African Union structure, and commended the role of ECA in coordinating the efforts of United Nations agencies in support of the implementation of NEPAD and the revitalization of the cluster system. The Ministers also welcomed ECA support to African countries to track the progress in implementing the commitments emanating from regional and global conferences and summits, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on the Information Society and the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.[8]

30. The main elements of the ministerial statement, as set forth in its call for action to scale up for success, are summarized below.

A call for action to scale up for success

31. The need to act now: With time running out to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the Ministers resolved to shift the emphasis from discussing principles to working out the practicalities for enhanced action; the year 2007 must be the year of redoubled effort at national, regional and global levels.

[12] See A/57/304, annex.

32. Ownership and self-belief: Comprehensive national development strategies must be country owned with a strong sense of belief that the task can be achieved, with sufficient policy space to design strategies adapted to the specific needs of our countries with a view to ending aid dependency over time.

33. Millennium Development Goal-based comprehensive national development strategies: By the end of 2007, comprehensive national development strategies and medium-term expenditure frameworks must be aligned with the Millennium Development Goals, with practical strategies for implementing the quick-impact initiatives as agreed at the 2005 World Summit and reaffirmed at the 2006 Conference on Financing for Development held in Nigeria.

34. Monitoring and evaluation: By the end of 2008, a mechanism should be put in place in our member States for monitoring, tracking, and evaluating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and, in this regard, the Ministers commended ECA on having set up the Learning Group on poverty reduction strategies and the Millennium Development Goals.

35. Domestic resource mobilization: The Ministers resolved to increase domestic spending on the Millennium Development Goals, to ensure that resources from debt relief and revenues from natural resources and other sources are channelled towards meeting the Goals; promote microfinancing; and improve the business and investment environment to attract increasing flows of foreign direct investment.

36. Investment in gender equality: Recognizing that improving the position and condition of women is central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Ministers resolved to increase investments in gender equality and women's empowerment that improve the status of women, including the provision of water, energy, education and health.

37. Generating employment: Recognizing the central role of employment in the fight against poverty and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, the Ministers pledged to integrate employment-creating policies in national development programmes and to increase investments towards employment creation.

38. Revitalizing African agriculture: The Ministers resolved to do their utmost to launch the African green revolution by the end of 2008, in order to raise agricultural productivity by ensuring access for smallholder farmers to fertilizer and improved seeds and strengthening agricultural extension services; and they reiterated their commitment to the implementation of the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and to allocating 10 per cent of budgets to agriculture, as per the African Union Maputo Decision of 2003.

39. Climate change and development: ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other international institutions, should develop and implement the Climate Information for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme, and Governments should integrate climate adaptation and mitigation measures into their national development strategies.

40. Statistics and statistical capacity: The Ministers called on ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to continue their coordination and leadership role in statistical development in Africa, and to further

strengthen the collaboration with regional bodies and subregional organizations, including the regional economic communities; resolved to lend full support to the Africa Symposia on Statistical Development; and recommended that the International Comparison Programme (ICP) Africa be continued in order to facilitate intra-country and international comparisons.

41. Regional integration: Governments and development partners should finance the implementation of the NEPAD infrastructure programme, and the African Union Commission should collaborate with civil society organizations to engage the support of the African people.

42. Financing for development: ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, should organize an assessment of the status of implementation of the Monterrey Consensus[13] in Africa, and propose practical ways in which all African countries can effectively access financing for development in preparation for the global midterm review of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Qatar in early 2008. South-South cooperation should also be strengthened as a complementary source of development finance.

43. Aid for Trade: ECA should work with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to support African Governments in implementing the Aid for Trade initiative, including defining new mechanisms through national and regional Aid for Trade programmes in addressing Africa's trade-related challenges.

44. Economic Partnership Agreements: Acknowledging the challenges that the economic partnership agreements between the European Union and African countries and the related trade liberalization could present to our member States, the Ministers requested the European Union to make available additional resources to meet the adjustment and other associated costs and urged that a new economic partnerships agreements framework be adopted before the expiration of the current one in December 2007.

45. Implementation of commitments of official development assistance (ODA): The Ministers called on the G-8 leaders, at their 2007 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, to make explicit a clear action plan for the implementation of their commitment made at the Gleneagles summit to double aid to Africa in order to ensure effective and predictable delivery of aid. While acknowledging the progress made by the European Union towards meeting their commitments in raising ODA to Africa, the Ministers further called on the European Union and other development partners to implement the commitment of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

46. Enhanced support from international organizations: The Ministers called on the United Nations and international financial institutions to support opportunities for scaling up investments to meet the Millennium Development Goals and the mobilization of necessary domestic and external resources.

[13] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

Positioning ECA to effectively meet Africa's challenges

47. The Ministers recognized the key role of ECA in promoting economic and social development in Africa, and noted with satisfaction the strengthened collaboration among ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank. They took note of the ECA Business Plan 2007-2009, which articulates the strategic direction of the Commission and lays out a bold and enhanced programme in support to member States; commended the Executive Secretary on his leadership; and urged member States and development partners to support the Plan with adequate resources.

Resolution 847 (XL)
Aid for Trade

48. The Economic Commission for Africa requested development partners to expedite the remaining work on the Aid for Trade initiative so that it can start benefiting the African countries, and further urged donor agencies and beneficiaries to enhance the effectiveness of Aid for Trade programmes and ensure that they are consistent with and supportive of regional and subregional integration initiatives. The Commission encouraged the involvement of the African private sector as one of the implementation vehicles for the Aid for Trade initiative at national and regional levels, and requested the ECA secretariat, in close collaboration with the African Union, the African Development Bank and other international trade institutions, to assist member States and regional economic communities in the operationalization and implementation of the initiative. The Commission reaffirmed its support to the role that the ECA secretariat is playing in the implementation of the initiative, especially in assisting African countries to define their national and regional Aid for Trade programmes, and also in the monitoring and evaluation of its effectiveness in addressing Africa's trade challenges. It also called on development partners to provide, in a predictable and sustained manner, the additional resources required by African countries to build their competitiveness and address supply-side and infrastructure constraints. The Commission also undertook to actively participate in defining priorities and programmes of the Aid for Trade initiative as well as in its implementation in close collaboration with ministries of trade.

Resolution 848 (XL)
Financing for development

49. The Economic Commission for Africa encouraged African countries to increase the mobilization of domestic resources through the design and adoption of appropriate economic policies to boost domestic savings, increase domestic tax revenue, boost remittances and stem capital flight. The Commission invited African countries to improve the investment climate and to take appropriate measures to ensure that the scaling up of ODA does not have any adverse effects on national economies. The Commission urged Africa's development partners to scale up their efforts to fulfil the commitments and pledges made to African countries, including post-conflict countries, the middle-income countries on increasing the quantity of aid, improving aid effectiveness and providing debt relief, as reflected in the Monterrey Consensus,[13] the 2005 Millennium Development Goal review summit, the G-8 Africa Action Plan, the 2005 Paris Declaration and the declaration of the 2005 G-8 Gleneagles summit, and support innovative financing ideas and follow-up on their commitment to long-term funding plans to deliver universal access to

treatment, prevention and care for HIV/AIDS. The Commission also called for greater involvement of African countries in the decision-making organs and processes of international organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The Commission requested the ECA secretariat, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, to organize a meeting to assess the status of implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Africa and to prepare the region for the forthcoming global midterm review of the Monterrey Consensus. The Commission commended ECA on the fundamental role that it continues to play in providing research and technical support to African countries on development financing issues and encouraged the Commission to play an active role in monitoring and evaluating the extent to which Africa's development partners have met their international commitments to the region.

Resolution 849 (XL)
Statistics and statistical capacity-building in Africa

50. The Commission endorsed the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity-building in Africa as the guide for statistical development on the continent, trusting that it will increase the capability of African national statistical systems to produce quality and reliable statistics; invited host countries of the next symposium with adequate backing of ECA, the Friends of ECA, other African countries and partners to ensure its sustainability by financially supporting it and fully backing the recommendations of the 2007 African Symposium on Statistical Development; requested ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, to strengthen its coordination efforts in statistical development in Africa, jointly with the African Development Bank, and calls upon development partners to support statistical development efforts in Africa, including providing required financial resources; further requested that the African Centre for Statistics scale up its assistance to African countries to strengthen their statistical capabilities for the production of quality statistics in compliance with international standards; and recommended that the International Comparison Programme for Africa should be continued and enhanced in order to facilitate international comparison, including monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and called upon the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the ECA secretariat to ensure its sustainability.

Resolution 850 (XL)
Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2008-2009

51. The Economic Commission for Africa endorsed the ECA Business Plan 2007-2009, which constitutes a strategic articulation of the ECA programme of work in the coming three years; urged member States and development partners to support the Plan with adequate resources for its operationalization; and endorsed the proposed programme of work and priorities of the Commission for the biennium 2008-2009, taking into account the discussion and related observations and amendments made at the meeting.

Resolution 851 (XL)
African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

52. The Economic Commission for Africa endorsed the recommendations of the panel of external reviewers contained in its report; mandated the Executive

Secretary to carry out a thorough needs assessment and a management audit to enable the Institute to fulfil its mission; further mandated the Executive Secretary to make the necessary arrangements to finalize the report of the panel of external reviewers and submit it at the next session of the Commission; and urged member States that have made pledges to honour their commitments.

Resolution 852 (XL)
Climate change and development in Africa

53. The Economic Commission for Africa requested its secretariat to take, in close partnership with African Union Commission and the African Development Bank and in collaboration with relevant African and international institutions, appropriate action for the effective development and implementation of the ClimDev-Africa Programme, and to report on progress at each Conference of the Commission; committed to provide full support to the implementation of the ClimDev-Africa Programme and to integrate climate change into economic planning and management at the level of our respective countries; and urged Africa's development partners to support the member States and regional economic communities to integrate climate adaptation and mitigation measures into their development plans and the implementation of the ClimDev-Africa Programme.

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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains a resolution adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at the twenty-fourth session of its Committee of the Whole, held in New York on 5 June 2007. The Commission holds its sessions biennially during even years.

* E/2007/100 and Corr.1.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Council

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At the twenty-fourth session of its Committee of the Whole, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean approved the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution I
Admission of the Republic of Korea as a member State of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was established by the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February 1948, in which the Council stated that membership of the Commission shall be open to States Members of the United Nations in Northern, Central and South America and in the Caribbean area and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Bearing in mind also that the Commission was established on the basis of the participation of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, plus those that have had special relations of a historical, cultural, geographical or economic nature with the region,

Recalling that, in that spirit, the Commission subsequently admitted the following countries: Spain in 1979, Portugal in 1984, Italy in 1990, Germany in 2005 and Japan in 2006,

Considering that the Government of the Republic of Korea has communicated to the Commission, through the Executive Secretary, its desire to be admitted as a member of the Commission,[1]

1. *Welcomes* the request from the Government of the Republic of Korea that the country be admitted as a member of the Commission;

2. *Approves* the admission of the Republic of Korea as a member of the Commission, and authorizes to this effect the amendment of paragraph 3 (a) of the terms of reference of the Commission to include the name of the Republic of Korea after that of Portugal.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

2. At the twenty-fourth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, delegations welcomed the Commission's analysis and presentation on the economic and social performance, and the challenges and prospects in the region. In particular, the analytical findings

[1] See LC/L.2725 (PLEN.24/3).

and recommendations of the Commission's publication, *Social Cohesion: Inclusion and a Sense of Belonging in Latin America and the Caribbean*, received high praise from the delegations. The delegations also commended work of the Commission relating to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region and cited the regional report as an important instance of inter-agency cooperation and as a useful, substantive example for the promotion of system-wide coherence. The delegations expressed confidence that the regional commissions would continue to contribute to system-wide coherence at their respective regional levels.